

TALLYHO

Serving the men and women of Fighter Country

Luke Air Force Base, Ariz.

Team Luke welcomes command chief

By Kristen M. Butler

56th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Although the 56th Fighter Wing's newest command chief master sergeant has been at Luke barely more than a week, he said the emphasis on "team" is what makes the wing so successful.

A group effort is important to 56th FW Command Chief Master Sgt. Kevin Isakson and he has a definite game plan. In fact, he has assigned a specific meaning to each of the letters in "team."

T represents total dedication to Luke's mission and E stands for excellence in all a team does to execute that mission. In addition, A is for attitude.

"Attitude is a big driver, you know, positive ones are contagious and affect overall team success," Isakson said. "M represents 'make it right — everyone is responsible for their own actions and doing the right thing.'"

As the eyes and ears of Luke's enlisted force, the Long Island, N.Y. native with more than 22 years service,

serves as a liaison between the wing commander and its enlisted people.

According to the "Air Force Promotion Fitness Examination Study Guide," a command chief ensures enlisted members understand the commander's policies, organizational goals and objectives. In addition, he advises the commander on matters that could adversely impact enlisted personnel with the goal of minimizing issues that could negatively affect mission readiness.

"Communication is key," Isakson said. "My No. 1 responsibility is to represent Luke's enlisted force. When issues or problem areas identify themselves, I'll immediately address them with the wing commander."

That is why Col. Steve Sargeant, 56th FW commander, chose Isakson as his command chief.

"Chief Isakson has his finger on the pulse of our airmen and their families and has the courage to express their concerns with me and other Luke com-

manders," Sargeant said. "He's in tune with taking care of people so they can accomplish the mission."

Although Isakson's background is in the aircraft maintenance career field, he said he wants all enlisted folks to feel represented. For the past week, he has visited as many workplaces as possible.

"I'm extremely interested in finding out what each and every person at Luke does to contribute to the overall mission," Isakson said. "I feel like a sponge at times, just trying to absorb it all."

However, the new command chief isn't suggesting any major changes.

"The team effort here is outstanding. From the community, to the troops, to the chiefs and first sergeants, even the facilities ... so far, I like what I've seen," Isakson said. "I'm only interested in making things better, not rewriting what already works."

One area Isakson said he would like to improve is second-term airmen retention.

"We need to retain these people who typically have between eight and 12 years experience," he said. "In them lies our core experience and future leaders—it's important to keep them in the Air Force."

Beyond retention issues, Isakson said he also wants to focus on professional

military education, career progression and the Air Force enlisted heritage. He said it's important for enlisted people to communicate their goals to supervisors and leadership.

"People are our No. 1 resource and should be treated as a valuable commodity," Isakson said. "Regardless of the mission, it's tough everywhere. In 1986 the Air Force had more than 600,000 people and today we have only 350,000. It's a case of having to do more with less and I don't want success to be at the expense of our people. Without them, you have nothing."

Isakson's door is always open and he doesn't want people to think they have to set up an appointment to speak with him.

"If people see me at the commissary, BX (base exchange) or in town, I want them to stop me and tell me what they're thinking," he said. "This is my chance to give something back to the enlisted. I welcome the challenge and thank Colonel Sargeant for giving me the opportunity to serve both him and the enlisted force."

Isakson is married to the former Jennifer Rainwater of Atlanta and they have two children Rena, 22, and Leah, 14.



Isakson

29 Luke officers make majors list

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPC) - The CY00A Major Selection Board for Line, Judge Advocate General, Chaplain, the Medical Service, Biomedical Sciences and Nurse Corps selected 2,349 captains for promotion to major.

Team Luke captains selected for major are:

Anthony Adamo*, 56th Operations Group
Christopher Ashby*, 308th Fighter Squadron
Donald Butler*, 308th FS
Margaret Carey, 56th MDG
Rene Chadwell, 56th MDG
Justin Davey*, 56th Fighter Wing
Miles DeMayo, 310th Fighter Squadron
Richard Douglass*, 56th Training Squadron
Randall Gilhart, 61st Fighter Squadron
Bonnie Goodale, 56th MDG
Robert Hadley, 309th Fighter Squadron
Ronald Hanselman*, 308th FS
Helen Horn, 56th MDG
Kevin Kelly, 61st FS
Janet Kinney, 56th MDG
Douglas Larson*, 56th OG
Octave Lauret*, 308th FS
Scott Leforce*, AF Reserve Officer Training Corps
Kyle Mullen, 607th Air Control Squadron
Matthew Mulligan*, 63rd Fighter Squadron
Anthony Roberson*, 56th FW
Jeffrey Schroeder*, 309th FS
Michael Sharp, 302nd Fighter Squadron
Steve Speckhard*, 62nd Fighter Squadron
David Walker*, 61st FS
Patrick Welch, PERS EXC
Linda Williams, 56th MDG
Matthew Willis, 63rd FS
Alexander Wilson, 21st Fighter Squadron

* denotes selection to intermediate service school

Selection statistics for Luke's in-the-promotion zone captains are:

- ♦ **Line**; 100 percent compared to the Air Force average of 88.5 percent
- ♦ **Nurse**; 75 percent compared to the Air Force average of 74.9 percent
- ♦ **BSC**; 100 percent compared to the Air Force average of 88.5 percent
- ♦ **MSC**; 100 percent compared to the Air Force average of 83.3 percent

AETC seeks AF recruiters

By Staff Sgt. B. Coors-Davidson

56th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The AETC Recruit the Recruiter Team visits Luke Thursday, looking for people interested in learning about one of the Air Force's most challenging and rewarding assignments, Air Force recruiting.

Luke members are invited to attend a briefing by the team at 8 a.m. in the public affairs auditorium, Bldg. 1150, Room 1020. Spouses are also encouraged to attend.

"Recruiting has never been as challenging as it is today and we are looking for the best that Team Luke has to offer to help meet that challenge," said Maj. Bruce Sprecher, AETC chief of public affairs. "The recruit the recruiter team is available to help high-quality, qualified and interested people learn more about this rewarding assignment and, in most cases, can complete the selection and assignment process on the spot."

Senior airmen with less than six years of total active federal military service and staff through master sergeants with less than 16 years service are eligible to apply, but all active-duty members may attend the briefing.

"Our first priority is to strengthen our cadre of recruiters," said Gen. Lloyd Newton, AETC commander. "We're working now to add 300 more recruiters where we need them most — in recruiting offices throughout America's communities. Individual supervisors can help with this recruiter force increase by encouraging sharp airmen to volunteer for this special-duty assignment. The assignment isn't easy, but can be rewarding and it's critical to our Air Force."

Recruiting duty is a four-year, special-duty assignment and recruiters receive a monthly \$375 special-duty assignment pay, manage their own office and may request to be stationed near their home state.

Members in mandatory training career fields and security forces are eligible and are invited to attend the briefing. Squadron commanders must coordinate on all applications for recruiting duty.

The team selects eligible applicants immediately and in most cases, those selected can pick their recruiting assignment location.

The chosen ones attend the six-week recruiting school at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

"The Air Force's strengths and successes are founded in its quality people and the Air Force remains committed to recruiting the best our nation



Courtesy photo

Few jobs offer Air Force members a chance to shape tomorrow's Air Force today. One such job, as an Air Force recruiter, is available to select enlisted members. For more information, attend the Recruit-the-Recruiter briefing Thursday at 8 a.m. in the public affairs auditorium, Bldg. 1150, Room 1020.

has to offer," said Brig. Gen. Peter Sutton, Air Force recruiting Service commander. "Obtaining those quality people is the mission of recruiting service and the central player in our process is the front-line recruiter."

"We are asking all commanders, superintendents, first sergeants and supervisors to encourage their best airmen to consider special duty as an Air Force recruiter."

For more information on the recruit the recruiter briefing, call Senior Master Sgt. Bryan Evans, military personnel flight superintendent, at 856-7838 or 856-7808; or for more information on the recruiting career field, call DSN 487-3511 or 487-3512.

Action Line



Col. Steve Sargeant
56th FW commander

The 56th Fighter Wing Commander's Action Line is your direct line to me. I get personally involved in every reply. Your ideas and concerns help build a stronger foundation on which we can successfully complete our mission and take care of our people.

Before you call the Action Line though, give Luke's professional experts a chance to answer your question in concert with your unit chain of command. If the appropriate official is unable to provide a satisfactory response, call me at 856-7011 or send an e-mail to command.actionline@luke.af.mil. Please include your name and telephone number so I can provide a personal reply to your concern. Together we can make Luke a better place to live and work.

Who to call:

Fraud, waste and abuse hotline	856-6149
Base exchange	935-4652
Commissary	935-3821
Patient advocate	856-9100
Legal assistance	856-6901
Law enforcement desk	856-5970
Housing office	856-7643
Military pay	856-7028
MPF customer service	856-7874
Civil engineer customer service	856-7231

Children in cars unattended

Comment: I take my daughter to the child development center and it really troubles me how many parents leave their children in their vehicles, sometimes with it running. Isn't there a law on base that prohibits leaving a child unattended in a vehicle? This is very irresponsible and dangerous — especially if the car is running and the child accidentally puts it into gear and gets hurt or injures someone else.

Response: Yes there is guidance against leaving children unattended in a car: "no owner or operator will leave a child under the age of 10 inside an unattended vehicle," according to Luke Instruction 31-205. This becomes particularly important as we experience warmer weather and it creates a safety hazard.

I have instructed security forces to increase patrol coverage at the child development center. If you observe an unattended child in a vehicle, please note the license plate number, the vehicle description and immediately call the law enforcement desk at 856-5970.

Sortie Scoreboard

Fiscal year 2000 programmed flight training

	To date	Goal
Sorties flown	xx,xxx	38,595*
Pilot graduates	xxx	876
MRT graduates	376	972

Luke people deployed:
AEF 5 and 6 people deployed: 81:
Other deployed people: 5

Based on current contract as of Tuesday*

View from the top
Training makes it happen

By Gen. Lloyd Newton
AETC commander

Recruit the right people, train them well and lead them smartly and with passion, and you'll create a force that can conquer almost any challenge. That's exactly what I believe we're doing in the U.S. Air Force and in AETC — making this equation work.

That's the clear image I brought back from my recent trip to visit commanders and airmen hard at work doing real world missions in eastern Europe. It was positively eye watering to interact with those dedicated airmen conducting Operation Northern Watch from Incirlik Air Base, Turkey, and Operation Joint Forge, Tuzla, Bosnia.

The truly satisfying part of the visit was to hear these airmen say directly that they felt very well prepared for their duties in these forward locations as a result of the training they received in the "First Command." I was gratified to hear their commanders' agree. Our airmen, they said, demonstrate all the right attributes — the skills, knowledge, training, attitude, motivation and determination — to get the job done.

Some of the airmen I met in Turkey and Bosnia had as little as 15 months in the Air Force! These young men and women are doing magnificent work in very tough situations within just a few months of completing technical school. That fact absolutely underscores the importance of our work in AETC.

In today's air expeditionary environment, solid

skills training is more important than ever before. At Operation Northern Watch, many people said they were on the job within 36 to 48 hours of arriving in country for their three to four month duty rotation. This level of readiness would not have been possible without the top-notch training that you, our commanders, supervisors and instructors provide.

The rotation schedules of today's Expeditionary Aerospace Force in real world contingencies requires many of our airmen arrive at their first duty station in a fully mission-ready state.

My observations confirm the individuals we're recruiting and the training we're providing are getting the job done in a superb manner.

These elements of recruiting, training and

leadership apply to the total force as well. For example, the security forces unit at Operation Northern Watch was a blend of permanent party and temporary duty personnel. Some of the temporary duty people were from the Air National Guard serving tours as short as just 14 days. Under these rapid turnover conditions, mission accomplishment was a constant challenge and the unit's leaders made it happen. When gaps existed between personnel departures and arrivals, the unit's senior enlisted leaders filled the security posts to ensure the success of the mission.

All the people I encountered on this trip displayed total competence, immense dedication and a deep sense of commitment to the mission. I'm proud to know it all started here — in the "First Command."

"In today's air expeditionary environment, solid skills training is more important than ever before."

Gen. Lloyd Newton
AETC commander

Deputy secretary bids farewell,
Hamre remains strong advocate

By John J. Hamre
Deputy Secretary of Defense

It has been the greatest honor and privilege of my life to serve as your deputy secretary of defense.

These past several years have been a time of great change, unexpected challenges and hard-won progress for our armed forces. Under Secretary William Cohen's leadership, we sustained readiness, improved pay, retirement, recruiting and quality of life, while meeting military challenges in the Balkans, southwest Asia and in the Pacific.

Threats emerged, as seen in the bombings of our embassies in Africa, cyber-attacks on our information systems, natural disasters and serious terrorist threats in our homeland. Yet, amid all these competing demands on our time, attention and resources, we have main-

"I am confident, in your hands America will remain secure and strong. God bless you all; it has been an honor to serve with you."

John J. Hamre
Deputy Secretary of Defense

tained the strongest force for good in the history of the world and made significant progress in transforming the structure and operations of the department.

I want to extend my deepest gratitude to Secretary Cohen and the countless men and women — uniform and civilian, active, Guard and Reserve — who have

been responsible for these successes. I would also like to offer my special thanks to those who worked on some of the signal issues of my tenure: the Defense Reform Initiative, the Joint Task Force for Civil Support, computer network defense, information assurance, the creation of the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, the reform of our export control process, missile defense, Y2K preparation, and preserving a sound defense industrial base in a global economy.

In going forward as a private citizen, I will remain a life-long advocate for the finest men and women I have ever known. I am very proud of your skill, service and sacrifice in defending this nation and our national interest.

I am confident, in your hands America will remain secure and strong. God bless you all; it has been an honor to serve with you.

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56th Comm squadron judges state drill meet



Staff Sgt. James Hart

Arizona State University cadet Xfjsj Xakjd inspects the uniforms of Thunderbird High School Navy Junior ROTC members Saturday during the ASU Sun Devil Showdown drill meet.

By Staff Sgt. B. Coors-Davidson
56th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

As part of the "we are all recruiters program," the 56th Communications Squadron provided equipment and support Saturday for the Arizona State University Sun Devil Showdown Junior ROTC drill meet.

Hosted by the ASU Air Force ROTC, Detachment 25, more than 20 Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps Junior ROTC units from across Arizona and Nevada gathered for the all-day event.

In a show of "excellence in all we do," the Westwood High School Air Force Junior ROTC drill team from Mesa, Ariz., took top honors.

"The annual competition is hosted at ASU to encourage high school students to strive for excellence and to continue their military education," said Cadet Capt. Imelda LeMasters, ASU Air Force ROTC project officer. "Luke's support helped make the day a success and give the students a better idea of what the Air Force is all about."

Other drill winners were: Westview High School Marine Corps Junior ROTC won first place in colorguard and four-man unarmed drill.

In addition to the over-all award trophy for the day, Westwood High School also took top honors in unarmed inspection and ten-man unarmed exhibition.

Hamilton High School Air Force

Junior ROTC marched their way to first place in the ten-man regulation drill division. Thunderbird High School Navy Junior ROTC showed their skill, winning the four-man armed drill competition and the commander's trophy for excellence.

The overall championship trophy is awarded to the school with the highest score from each division of competition.

"The Westwood Air Force unit tends to win several awards at other drillmeets each year," LeMasters said. "And the Westview Marine Corps unit won the state championship recently."

Cadet Tech. Sgt. Amber Johnson from Hamilton High School won the final event of the day, known as the Individual Drill Down, which pits the best individual cadets from each unit in drill movements.

"Drill team competitions are a great opportunity for cadets to show off the teamwork they have learned," LeMasters added. "The teams spend long hours working on drill and ceremonies and perfecting their routines. Junior ROTC is a wonderful program that can benefit high school students incredibly by teaching them confidence, leadership ability, good citizenship and self-discipline."

About 500 people attended the competition, including Junior ROTC cadets, instructors and family members.

"We're all here to have fun and do our best," said Cadet Sgt. 1st Class Joshua Crable, Red Mountain High School Army Junior ROTC, Mesa, Ariz. "But more importantly, we're here to strive for excellence, demonstrate teamwork and learn from each other so we might continue to improve in whatever we do."

NCO trades stripes for bars

By Staff Sgt. B. Coors Davidson
56th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Many people enter the Air Force with dreams of taking advantage of the various educational programs, completing a college degree and earning their commission as a U.S. Air Force officer.

For Staff Sgt. David Moon, 56th Communications Squadron computer and communication systems project manager, hard work and dedication has made all of those dreams become reality.

Recently selected for Officer Training School, Moon trades his stripes for gold bars and continues his service as a communications officer.

"I decided last year to take the road less traveled and expand my Air Force career by taking on the challenge of becoming an officer," Moon said.

"It takes sacrifice, a lot of family support and hard work, but in the end it's all worth it."

Moon followed the example of former enlisted officers like Col. Michael Hazen, 56th Support Group commander, and Maj. Linda MacConnell, 56th Medical Group, to find the way to accomplishing his dreams.

A strong advocate of Air Force educational opportunities, he hopes to inspire other enlisted members to follow their goals.

"Take advantage of every degree-building program the education office offers," Moon said. "Set

a goal and don't lose sight of your objective."

Moon completed his bachelor's degree of liberal arts with a minor in psychology from Luke's Regents College extension office.

"Most military students use a mix of traditional and nontraditional methods to complete their degrees," said Charlie Isleb, Regents education specialist.

"Air Force people are well suited for education success because of self-motivation learned from technical schools and career development courses."

The 56th Mission Support Squadron Education Services Flight has programs to help all Air Force members with their educational goals including ROTC programs like Airman Commissioning Scholarship Program and the Professional Officer Corps program, said Jackie Smith, 56th MSS education services flight counselor.

Other methods of completing a degree that can lead to a commission include Airman Education and Commissioning Program with degrees in engineering, nursing and foreign language. In addition, the Air Force offers a physicians assistant program.

"There are programs to help almost everyone complete their college education in a timely and cost-effective manner," Smith said. "If you set an education goal, we can help you attain it."

For more information on these and other commissioning programs or additional educational opportunities, call 856-7722.



Moon

News Briefs

Family housing construction

Base housing gas services lines will be repaired beginning Monday until December 18. Residents are notified seven, three and one day before repairs and must ensure children and pets are secured inside while work is accomplished.

Comptrollers society meeting

The American Society of Military Comptrollers meets Thursday at 11:30 a.m. in the recreation center. The Thunderbird Chapter invites members and anyone interested to a brown-bag lunch meeting.

56th LG change of command

Col. Frank Bruno takes command of the 56th Logistics Group from Col. Ronald Lee in a ceremony April 25 at 9 a.m. in Hangar 485. A reception follows at the officers club.

WAPS testing on goal day

People taking their Weighted Airman Promotion System testing April 21 must still do so even though it is a Luke goal day. With the condensed testing cycle, there is no way to reschedule.

Volunteer recognition

The 56th Fighter Wing Annual Volunteer Recognition reception is April 27 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the Desert Star Enlisted Club. Friends, family and community members are invited to attend. For more information, call Debbie Davis at 856-6362.

EEO counselors needed

The 56th Fighter Wing seeks collateral duty equal employment opportunity counselors. GS-5 and above civilian employees are eligible to apply. Duties include advising complainants, trying to resolve complaints at the informal stage and keeping a record of counseling activities. Applications endorsed by supervisors are due April 15. For more information, call Susan Bradford at 856-7747.

ALS seeks instructor

Luke Airman Leadership School seeks a high-caliber staff sergeant for a professional military education instructor position. For more information or to apply, call Tech. Sgt. Derek Urban at 856-7737.

MTI recruitment

A military training instructor recruiting team sponsors a brief Thursday at 9 a.m. in Bldg. 1144, the 944th Medical Squadron classroom. The team seeks eligible senior airmen through master sergeants with less than 16 years service. Applications are accepted at the brief.

MTIs receive a \$275 monthly special duty assignment pay, additional clothing allowance, free dry cleaning and a four-year stabilized tour. Spouses are also invited to attend.

Senior NCO ECI course change

Senior NCOs can no longer enroll in the Extension Course Institute, Maxwell, Air Force Base, Ala., Senior NCO Academy. Those enrolled are not affected by the change if they complete the course by their deadlines. For more information, call Master Sgt. Billy Henderson at 856-7722 or 856-7723.

Phone number change

The 56th Fighter Wing commander's phone number has changed to 856-0056. The command post number is 856-5600.

Tax center help, volunteers needed

The Luke Tax Center is open until Monday from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. at Bldg. 1150, Room 1064. The center provides free income tax help to active-duty members and retirees; appointments are not necessary. For more information, call Barbara Gaugert at 856-3140.

Correction

Tech. Sgt. James McDonald, 56th Transportation Squadron, was mistakenly identified as being part of another squadron in the salutes section of the April 7 edition of the "Tallyho." McDonald is the 1999 AETC readiness NCO of the year.

Students test liquid-filled anti-G suit

EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. (AFPN) — The U.S. Air Force Test Pilot School here is testing a concept in aircrew protection — a liquid-filled, full-body anti-gravity suit.

Testing of the Swiss “Libelle” anti-G suit is a collaborative effort by TPS, Air Combat Command’s Humans Systems Integration Division and the Air Expeditionary Force Battlelab at Mountain Home AFB, Idaho.

Using hydrostatic, or liquid, force to regulate suit pressure, the Libelle, which means “dragonfly,” in Swiss, could prove better than pneumatic, or compressed air, anti-G suits.

During high-G acceleration forces, much of a pilot’s blood is pushed towards the body’s lower half. In just seconds, a shift in blood volume away from the brain can cause a blackout.

To fight such potentially deadly occurrences, Air Force fighter aircrews use pneumatic anti-G suits and the anti-G straining maneuver, said Capt. Aaron George, project pilot and team leader. “G-induced loss of consciousness, or GLOC, is rare due to such countermeasures, George said. “However, high-G continues to impact aircrew performance and GLOC has not been eliminated.”

That may change in the near future if the test pilot school’s latest endeavor proves fruitful, said Capt. Shon Williams, project engineer. Working with Libelle’s developer — Andreas Reinhard from Anti-G Life Support Systems — an Air Force team of three test pilots, three test engineers and a physiologist have begun testing the prototype suit.

Life Support Systems and Reinhard have been developing the Libelle concept for several years via cen-

trifuge and flight testing with Swiss and German air forces. The suit is based on a liquid concept that does not require mechanical regulating systems or on-board compressed air.

“Our goal is to provide total G protection for the pilot with a suit that can hardly be felt,” Reinhard said.

The aerospace expeditionary force Battlelab learned of the suit through a suggestion by Col. Pete Demitry, director of the Air Combat Command Human Systems Integration Division.

In February, a battlelab initiative entitled “Self-regulating Anti-G Ensemble,” or SAGE, was begun to demonstrate Libelle technology. The Swiss suit’s potential advantages: reduced need for positive-pressure breathing, reduced physical effort, improved ability to communicate under high-G conditions and no requirement for a G-valve.

“One of Libelle’s most valuable attributes may be its ability to function independently, eliminating the need for a G-valve or hose connection,” said Lt. Col. Don Diesel, AEF Battlelab initiative team leader.

Before beginning testing here, the Libelle team traveled to Holloman Air Force Base, N.M., for a week of training and ground evaluations including egress training, hanging harness and cockpit interoperability checks in the T-38 Talon, as well as altitude chamber testing and multiple centrifuge runs. Because Libelle’s function is dramatically different from the current Combat Edge ensemble used by F-15 Eagle and F-16 Fighting Falcon aircrews, Test Pilot School members underwent extensive training wearing the suit in a Holloman centrifuge.

“The training we received at Holloman was superb,” George said. “We headquartered our operations at the



Air Force photo

Capt. Aaron George, team leader for the Libelle anti-G suit test, climbs out of a T-38 Talon at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., after completing the first U.S. flight made with the Swiss-made suit.

base’s physiological training flight, which became part of our team ... and essential to our success. We departed Holloman with a wealth of knowledge about how to operate effectively with the suit during flight test.”

During the next few weeks, TPS students will flight-test the suit in both the T-38 and F-16 here.

The next stage here for the AEF Battlelab initiative: a more extensive look at the Libelle ensemble this summer under hot environmental conditions. The initiative also will assess the Libelle with regard to projected cost vs. benefit of supply, logistics, maintenance, training and safety.

A final report by the AEF Battlelab on the SAGE concept demonstration is expected in August.

“We plan to complete the concept demonstration by this summer, and based upon our findings, make recommendations on the technology to senior Air Force leaders and the acquisition community,” Diesel said.



Smart Card debuts at Eskan Village

Story and photos by
Senior Airman Jeffrey Bishop
320th Air Expeditionary Group Public Affairs

ESKAN VILLAGE, Saudi Arabia (AFPN) — More than deployed 1,300 people were a little smarter recently when they received their Defense Department Smart Cards.

What makes the card smart is an eight-kilobyte embedded computer chip, which gives the card a range of capabilities, such as storing medical and personnel records and controlling access to restricted areas.

Packed with potential, the card is making a modest, although important, debut at Eskan Village, Saudi Arabia. Use of the card at the dining hall should improve head-count accuracy over the paper sign-in process, said Lt. Col. George Hargrove, 320th Air Expeditionary Group deputy commander. Knowing the correct number of diners is key to fair and accurate billing.

Use of the card also makes the sign-in process more efficient, as diners simply insert their cards into a reader for a few seconds. Diners must sign their names, units and the last four digits of their social security numbers.

Until May 5, diners will be required to do both — sign in and use their cards. The process is called dual validation, and ensures the system is running properly and giving an accurate count.

“It will also give diners a chance to try the card reading system,” said Marine Corps Capt. Russell Graham, U.S. Central Command Logistics and Security Assistance Directorate. Graham is oversee-

ing the installation of the system.

To get the system going, the 320th Air Expeditionary Group Personnel Support for Contingency Operations, or PERSCO, unit and the Army Central Command-Saudi Arabia personnel office are working an aggressive timeline, creating and issuing more than 1,300 cards in about two weeks. PERSCO started issuing cards March 17, and had issued almost 400 cards in the first four days.

“With both stations running, we can issue from 50 to 60 cards an hour,” said Senior Airman Chad Newsome, PERSCO manning specialist, here from Minot Air Force Base, N.D.

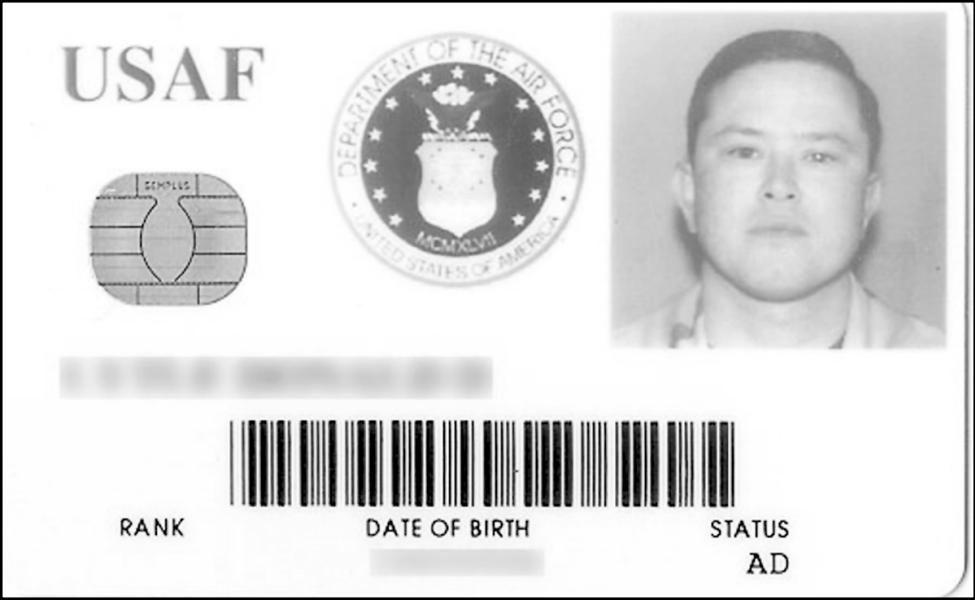
Other capabilities of the card — controlling access to restricted areas, manifesting and tracking inventories, and deployment readiness and processing — mean the card could be used for more than just food service accountability.

“Since the card will be issued DOD-wide shortly, we intend to capitalize on as many of the card’s capabilities in the USCENTCOM area of responsibility as we can,” said Graham.

Eskan Village is the first location in southwest Asia to use the Smart Cards. Hargrove said lessons learned here will be used when the cards are issued at Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia.

“We are not testing the program, we are implementing it. But what we learn will help our neighbors down the road get their program going,” he said.

The card, the same size as a credit card, has a picture of the member on it, as well as service, duty status and date of birth. DOD intends to replace active



A look at the new Defense Department Smart Card. With an 8-kilobyte embedded computer chip, the Smart Card is used at the Mirage Dining Facility at Eskan Village, Saudi Arabia, to improve sign-in efficiency and accuracy.

and reserve-component military identification cards with their smarter cousin.

Graham said the chip in the card has a security application that encrypts and compresses all stored data. Access to that data requires a four-digit personal identification number, which the member selects when the card is issued. He said defense officials chose the Smart Card system because of the intense security built into it.

Deputy Defense Secretary John Hamre recently authorized the department to implement the Smart Card program, which military officials have been

working on in one form or another for more than a decade, according to an American Forces Press Service story from October 1999. The decision follows a series of tests done by the services over the past two years, primarily in U.S. Pacific Command, Graham said.

Congress designated the Navy, under the direction of DOD’s chief information officer, as the lead agency for the \$145 million program, which is to be implemented from fiscal 2000 to fiscal 2005. The cost of implementing the program in fiscal 2000 will be about \$13 million, according to the 1999 article.

CMSAF speaks on recruiting, retention

By Staff Sgt. Stuart Camp
Aeronautical Systems Center Public Affairs

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB, Ohio (AFPN) — Air Force leaders continue to wrestle with enlisted retention rates and how those numbers drive recruiting efforts.

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Jim Finch pointed out these two issues have a larger effect on the enlisted corps, with their ripples increasing promotion rates and putting more people into recruiting offices.

“The real issue is do we have enough people to do what needs to be done for the Air Force,” he said March 25, after he spoke to the airman leadership school class at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

“It is a true statement we were under our end strength last year, but we’ve been under end strength for a number of years,” Finch said. “Our retention wasn’t as good as we wanted it to be, or projected it to be.”

The desired manning, Finch explained, looks for a little more than half the people to stay past their first term, about three-quarters to stay in past their second term, and virtually everybody to stay in after that. According to statistics from January and February, the Air Force reported first- and second-term reenlistment rates at 52 percent and 70 percent, respectively. These are higher than 1999 numbers for the same months, but still below the Air Force’s goal of 55 and 75 percent.

“The bigger issue is how do you keep the people to get the job done,” Finch said. “When you don’t have enough people, you further stress the existing force to do the mission. We’ve got to find a way to balance that out.”

Air Force officials are taking measures to combat lower-than-historical retention rates, Finch said.

“We’re actually working to increase the number of NCOs we have in the Air Force over the next few years,” Finch said. “We’re going to shift the percentage of NCOs in the Air Force — raise it to about 56 percent, (up from 48 percent last year). We’re going to (increase) the number of mid-level NCOs, and as we do that, promotion rates will increase.”

The chief explained to sustain the enlisted corps for the long term, given the retention projections and other factors, requires promotion rates of 16 percent to staff sergeant, 11 percent to technical sergeant, 19 percent to master sergeant, 6 percent to senior master sergeant and 13 percent to chief.

“It takes us seven and a half years to grow a staff sergeant — that’s excessively long compared to other services,” Finch said. “The army promotes to E-5 in about 4.2 years. We have retention rates higher than the other services, so it slows promotion down. That 56 percent will drive down the average pin-on time for promotion to staff sergeant to about six years.”

Not meeting the retention goals at the Air Force

level causes the end-strength shortages and increases recruiting demands.

The 338th Recruiting Squadron, headquartered at Wright-Patterson, shares the recruiting burden with 28 other squadrons across the nation. The 338th RCS has 46 recruiters covering more than 51,250 square miles of territory spread across Ohio, West Virginia and northern Kentucky.

Monthly recruiting goals are around 90 people a month, said Lt. Col. Roger Foley, 338th RCS commander. His squadron hasn’t met all its goals.

“We’ve been outmanned 13 to 1 by other services in the local area,” Foley said. One Air Force recruiter is covering the same area as, typically, six from the Army, four or five Navy recruiters and a few Marines.

Air Force senior leaders are addressing the strains on local recruiters by managing overall manning.

“Although we recruited more people in 1999 than in 1998, we still fell 1,700 people short,” Finch said. “When retention’s down, we have to raise the bar — up to 34,000 (non-prior service) people — in 2000. Unfortunately, it does not look like we’re on the right track to get all the people we’d like to recruit this year.”

Finch asks supervisors and commanders to encourage their best and brightest people to become recruiters.

“I think a lot of people will step up and do the job that they’re asked to do,” Finch said.

Nigeria defense

U.S. military assists fledgling democratic government

By **Jim Garamone**
American Forces Press Service

ABUJA, Nigeria (AFPN) — Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo and U.S. Defense Secretary William Cohen will discuss a proposed security assistance program for a country many consider the “anchor” of West Africa.

Cohen said during an in-flight news conference that the program will help Nigeria change its military to encourage the fledgling democratic government in the country. Cost for the first year of the program is pegged at \$7 million, with the United States and Nigeria splitting the bill evenly.

Nigeria is the largest country in sub-Saharan Africa. “We regard Nigeria and South Africa as two key states in Africa,” Cohen said. “Not only is Nigeria important for West Africa, but for the entire region.”

Cohen said an action plan developed in 1999 came up with 62 recommendations for U.S. and Nigerian cooperation. The proposal will update the military and modernize it to an extent. It will “also institute the kind of reforms that will be needed to place the military under civilian control.”

Nigeria has had only 10 years of democratically elected leaders in its 40 years of independence from Great Britain.

The U.S. military assistance plan comes in three main parts, a senior defense official said. The first component is to create something like a U.S. Secretary of Defense. This would be a civilian oversight structure with teeth, he said.

“(This includes) a transparent budget process, control over personnel and promotion systems, military pay, all the things we take for granted in our own system that are not taken for granted in Nigeria.”

The program also calls for at least 10 Americans and that number of Nigerian counterparts to work together for about a year, looking at the proper configuration of the Nigerian military. The Nigerians must come up with their own concept of roles and missions for the military and then design force structure necessary to accomplish those roles and missions, the senior official said.

Nigeria has a very heavy force structure now, officials said. “They have a lot of tanks, they have a lot of fighters,” one said. “Actually, they have a lot of stationary tanks and a lot of stationary fighters.”

The annual Nigerian military budget is about \$300 million.

The second component in the restructuring plan centers on Nigeria’s fleet of eight C-130 cargo aircraft. The United States will provide updated technical manuals and maintenance specialist training.

“We need to help organize that C-130 unit so they can be an effective important part of (Nigeria’s) power projection role,” the official said. “That’s how they get their peacekeepers where they need to go. That’s how they sustain them.”

The final component deals with training aids and equipment. The Nigerians need a basic computer simulation center with a large peacekeeping simulation component. “But it’s not just that. The Nigerian military needs basic equipment to go down as far as white boards and blackboards in the classrooms,” the official said.

“President Obasanjo has been taking a leadership role in trying to eliminate corruption and in trying to bring a civilian control over the military itself,” Cohen said. (Obasanjo is) one of the real visionary forces in Nigeria. He is out front on these issues, and we want to support him.”

Cohen said it is impossible to have an effective democracy unless the military is subordinate to civilian rule, and part of that subordination involves training the military to understand what its role is in a democratic society. “Reprofessionalization will be key,” he said — “can’t have one without the other.

More contact will occur between Nigerian and American service members as the program matures. There is a fairly large International Military Education and Training program with Nigeria costing \$600,000 per year. U.S. training teams will visit Nigeria occasionally while Nigerians will attend C-130 maintenance courses at Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark.

“What we want is a normal defense-to-defense relationship, but we can only do that if they are successful in what they are trying to do,” the senior defense official said.

In short, Nigeria is a society that needs structures, said a senior State Department official accompanying the secretary.

“The military has been used to beat up society for a long time,” he said. “Civilian leaders in Nigeria need to be thinking how to be responsive to the people.”

While the military needs work, it has been effective in peacekeeping operations.

“In peacekeeping not only has there been the military ability to perform these operations, there has also been the political will to do them,” the State Department official said. “Nigeria has certainly spent hundreds of millions on peacekeeping — done the things to maintain stability in their backyard.”

Since independence in 1960, the Nigerians have participated in 26 U.N.-sponsored peacekeeping missions. Nigerian soldiers have supported operations in the Congo, Kashmir, Cambodia, Mozambique, Somalia, Bosnia, Angola and Croatia.

Guard pilot follows in father's footsteps

By Lt. Col. Jean Marie Beall
175th Wing, Maryland Air National Guard

BALTIMORE (AFPN) — Capt. Julie Hudson, an A-10 pilot with the Maryland Air National Guard's 175th Wing, was probably five years old when she learned to sew. But she didn't learn from her mom and the sewing she did was the rib stitching on the experimental airplanes her father, Walter Hudson, built in their Tampa, Fla., garage.

"I guess most women learn to sew from their mom," Hudson said. "I learned through 'rib-stitching the fabric over the wing's ribs. Dad had about a foot-long needle and would pass it through the upper and lower surface of the wing. I would 'catch' it on the other side and then pass the needle back through. Then he would tie it off."

Those were impressionable days, Hudson recalled.

"I guess the most impressive memory from growing up was the day when Dad would fly the aircraft for the first time," Julie said. "It's pretty incredible to literally build an aircraft from scratch and take it for its first flight. The nice thing is that you know the work was done to a perfectionist standard."

Walter Hudson recalls his daughter always having an interest in airplanes.

"She used to work on the airplanes helping me," he said. "She was probably younger than 5 years old. Like me, she's been around airplanes all her life."

Hudson started flying when she was 15 and received her private pilot's license two years later. Today, Hudson is an airline pilot for Northwest, flying the Airbus A-320. She also recently became the Air National Guard's first female A-10 Thunderbolt II pilot.

"I encouraged her to get her private license," Walter said. "We bought a little airplane, a Cessna 150, so she could learn. And she learned at the same airport that I did."

While flying continued to be her great love, Hudson went on to study business at the University of Florida. She earned a bachelor's degree in business administration in 1986 and a master's degree in business administration from George Washington University in 1991. She went to work for Piedmont and USAir in a marketing position for six years.

"I finally figured out that flying was where it was at," she said with a laugh.

She joined the Air Force Reserve in July 1992 to learn to fly military aircraft. She went on to fly the C-141 Starlifter. Back then, the Air Force did not permit women to fly fighters.

"It was a moral decision to stay with the Reserves," she continued. "But they were really flexible and they were very supportive of my decision to become an A-10 pilot."

To become an A-10 pilot, Hudson had to go through more training.

"Fighter lead-in training is very difficult," she said. "You are flying tactically, using the airplane as a fighter."

But Hudson didn't just get through the grueling program at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz. She took the school by storm, winning the bombing and strafing competition; the course's distinguished graduate award; and the academic achievement award.

Walter Hudson's own interest in flying goes a long ways back as well.

"I started flying in 1943," Walter recalled. "I was in the Navy. I went in as an aviation cadet, but it



Courtesy photo
An A-10 Thunderbolt II similar to the one flown by Capt. Julie Hudson, 175th Wing, Maryland Air National Guard, is marshaled in preparation for a training flight.

was the tail end of World War II and the Navy was no longer taking any more pilots."

He got his private license in 1948. But then came the Korean Conflict.

"I went into the Air Force and worked in maintenance on the KC-97 Stratotanker."

During the 1950s and 1960s, in addition to working for Tampa Electric Company, and flying executives around the southeast, he flew for a small charter service.

"I flew for Florida Air Taxi," Walter explained. "It was a charter company that connected with passengers from mainly National and Eastern Airlines and flew them to resorts south of Tampa."

Military waits for budget

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFP) — “You have to pay the people, and you have to pay the light bill,” said Warren Hall, assistant deputy comptroller for programs and budget. “One payment you can defer — but it’s not a great idea — is you don’t have to perform training.”

That will be the training situation if Congress doesn’t pass the \$2 billion fiscal 2000 Emergency Supplemental Appropriation Bill before April 17. The bill funds Kosovo operations for fiscal 2000.

In a letter to congressional leaders, Defense Secretary William Cohen said if bill passage is not assured, the Army would have to start canceling movements to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., and other readiness-related training exercises.

Cohen said other actions the Army would have to take include reducing home station training and delaying promotions and bringing people into the service.

He said the Navy and Air Force face lesser, but still serious risks, he said. “Additionally, essential intelligence activities and defense agencies support would be degraded,” Cohen wrote.

The supplemental also covers the increase in the cost of fuel. Pentagon spokesman Ken Bacon said about \$1.56 billion will go to cover higher fuel costs in fiscal 1999, 2000 and 2001.

“The reason for this is the way the Defense Logistics Agency ‘sells’ oil to military users is at a fixed price for a year,” Bacon told reporters March 28. This allows services to plan costs for the year.

“So, if the price they sell it at turns out to be higher than what they were paying for oil, they end up with a surplus, which is used to reduce the selling price the next year,” Bacon said. “If the price at which they sell turns out to be too low, ... they run a deficit, and then they have to make that up from Congress.”

Census

Air Force urges everyone be counted

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFP) — Air Force people are making sure they are counted, by participating in the Military Census 2000 Monday through today.

Just as the Census Bureau is asking the public at large to participate in Census 2000, it also is asking the men and women of the armed services to cooperate with census-takers this year. The Census Bureau has entered into partnerships with each branch of the armed services and has provided them with plans and materials for enumeration.

“Census Forms have been passed out by base project officers who are collecting the forms through April 7 from each military person assigned to that base,” said Charles Hamilton, Air Force liaison for Census 2000. “All active-duty people are asked to complete the form and return it to their unit’s project officer to ensure they are counted.”

Including stateside and overseas

armed forces personnel in the official state totals will help determine the number of seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Census information also helps decision-makers understand where to build hospitals and highways and which neighborhoods need schools, more services for the elderly or housing assistance. People who answer the census also help their communities obtain the correct amount of state and federal funding.

It is also important everyone answer all the questions on the census forms. Answers are confidential and no data on any individual or family will be published. By law, the Census Bureau cannot share an individual’s answers with others, including welfare agencies, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, the Internal Revenue Service, the courts, the police or the armed forces.

AAFES wises up on Smart Pay card

DALLAS (AFPN) — Ringing up \$58 million in government charge card purchases in 1999, the Army and Air Force Exchange Service is out to grow.

“Sales figures show AAFES is the single largest destination for military spending via government purchase cards,” said Barry Gordon, AAFES sales directorate vice president. “We’re placing special emphasis on making official purchases simple and quick.”

This means DOD employees no longer have to sign a logbook or provide a unit address to use their government charge cards at AAFES facilities.

“Civilians are often the primary purchasers of mission-related goods and services for military organizations,” said Gordon. “Their time is valuable, and we realize that

to require them to do more than present their government ID and purchase card isn’t necessary.”

DOD civilians not otherwise authorized to shop base and post exchanges can make official purchases there with Government Purchase Cards. Catalog purchases are also possible by telephone, and AAFES future plans include bringing official purchasing online at www.aafes.com.

Tax relief measures required to complete purchases at other places do not apply, since base and post exchange sales are tax free.

AAFES earnings from government purchase card sales are returned to military installations for funding of morale, welfare and recreation programs.

PALACE Compass moves home page

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN) — Civilian employees serviced by the Air Force Personnel Center have access to the PALACE Compass Home Page website with a recent address changeto www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/dpc/.

The center provides full benefits and entitlement servicing to most Air Force bases. Limited services are provided to U.S. Air Forces in Europe bases.

The schedule for transitioning the remaining bases for limited benefits and entitlements servicing can be found on the website.

Around Base

Family Springfest

Luke has a Family Springfest and parade April 22. The parade is at 9 a.m. in family housing and the Springfest is at Fowler Park from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Booths are available for squadron and group fundraising and event volunteers are needed. For more information, call 856-7471.

Congressional Award Program

The Congressional Award Program is for ages 14 to 23 and is a voluntary, noncompetitive program that recognizes young Americans for meeting established criteria in voluntary public service, personal development, physical fitness and expedition or exploration. Youths set goals with an adult advisor of their choice. For more information, call 856-7152.

CPR and first aid class

The Red Cross has an adult, child and infant cardiopulmonary resuscitation and first aid class April 15 at 9 a.m. at Bldg. 1150, Room 107 for military, civilian employees and family members. Cost is \$22.

Volunteer orientation

There is a Red Cross volunteer orientation Thursday and April 27 at 10 a.m. at Bldg. 1150, Room 1077. To register or for more information, call 856-7823.

Enlisted wives club

Spouses interested in forming an enlisted wives club can call Vernadene Loveland at 856-6835.

Ocean excursion

Outdoor recreation has a four-day Coronado Island Memorial Day weekend ocean excursion near San Diego. The trip departs from Luke May 26 at noon and returns May 29 at 8 p.m.

Cost is \$300 per person and includes transportation, hotel accommodations, half-day deep-sea fishing trip, tour of the USS Constellation aircraft carrier and a trolley tour through Old Town. Special payment plans are available. For reservations or more information, call 856-6267.

Kindergarten registration

Luke School has kindergarten registration Thursday from 4 to 7:30 p.m. in the school cafeteria for children that will be 5 by Aug. 31. Shot records, birth certificate and proof of residence are required. The Luke immunization clinic is available to administer shots. Parents must have military identification cards and childrens medical records. For more information, call (623) 876-7300.

Retirement center volunteers

Good Shepherd Retirement Center seeks volunteers for the adopt-an-elder program. To volunteer or for more information, call 875-0122.

Spring carnival

Luke school has a spring carnival April 14, 5 to 8 p.m. base organizations are invited to operate fund raising booths. Booth cost is \$30. For more information, call 856-6336.

“Mosquito” reunion

The 6147th Tactical Group “Mosquitos” from the 5th Air Force during the Korean War have a reunion Oct. 30 through Nov. 5 at the Doubletree Hotel at Reid Park, 445 South Alvernon Way, Tucson, Ariz. For more information, call Robert Blackwood at (520) 648-1933.

Air Rescue Association reunion

An Air Rescue Association annual reunion is Sept. 24 to 28. For more information, call Shad Shaddox at (210) 656-0306.

Chapel News

Worship schedule

The following is Luke’s Protestant and Catholic worship schedule:

Protestant worship

- ♦ Holy Communion is Sunday at 8 a.m. at the Luke Community Chapel.
- ♦ Gospel service is Sunday at 8:30 a.m. at the Chapel on the Mall.
- ♦ Morning worship service is Sunday at 11 a.m. at the Luke Community Chapel.
- ♦ Evening praise service is Sunday at 6 p.m. at the Luke Community Chapel.

Catholic worship

- ♦ Saturday Mass is at 5 p.m. at the Luke Community Chapel.
- ♦ Sunday Mass is at 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. at the Luke Community Chapel.
- ♦ Weekday Mass is at noon at the Luke Community Chapel.

Religious education

- ♦ Religious education and youth Protestant Sunday school is 9:30 a.m. in the education annex, Bldg. 246 on 140th Drive near the Chapel on the Mall. Classes are for ages 4 through adult.
- ♦ Protestant Youth of the Chapel for junior and senior high youths meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m. in the Luke Community Chapel Annex.
- ♦ Catholic religious education is Sundays at 11 a.m. at Luke School. Classes are for ages 3 through adult. For more information, call Loida Lagang at 856-6211.
- ♦ Catholic Youth of the Chapel meet Wednesdays at 6 p.m. in the Luke Community Chapel Annex. Junior and senior high youths are invited.

Salutes

Annual award winners

Tech. Sgt. Eric Smith, 56th Transportation Squadron, is the Air Force transportation NCO annual award winner.


AETC readiness award winners

The following Luke people are the AETC readiness award winners:
Airman: Airman 1st Class Stephanie Lapierre, 56th Civil Engineer Squadron
NCO: Tech Sgt. James McDonald, 56th Training Squadron
Officer: 2nd Lt. John Welde, 56th Fighter Wing
Civilian: Cleam Coleman

56th Fighter Wing awards

The following Luke people are the 56th Fighter Wing annual training manager award winners: Senior Airman Paul Smith, 56th Security Forces; and Tech. Sgt. Felicia Freeman, 56th Mission Support Squadron

The following Luke people are the 56th FW annual personnel manager award winners: Senior Airman Kristina Robinson, 56th Mission Support Squadron; Staff Sgt. John Morris, 56th Security Forces Squadron; 1st Lt. Brenda Simpson, 309th Fighter Squadron; and Capt. Andrew Doane, 56th Mission Support Squadron



The following Luke people are the 56th FW annual information manager award winners: Senior Airman Jeffrey Schetroma, 56th Component Repair Squadron; Tech. Sgt. Thomas Lemmon, 309th Fighter Squadron; and Master Sgt. Rene Camarillo, 56th Communications Squadron
Abigail Pano, 56th Supply Squadron

Quarterly award winners

The following 56th Component Repair Squadron people are the quarterly award winners:
Airman: Senior Airman Jeffrey Schetroma
NCO: Staff Sgt. Louis Ellcessor
Senior NCO: Master Sgt. Kevin Tomes
Company grade officer: 2nd Lt. Christina Miller
Civilian: Damon Manomet



The following 56th Comptroller Squadron people are the quarterly award winners:
Airman: Airman 1st Class Richard Tate
NCO: Staff Sgt. Linda Olearly
Senior NCO: Master Sgt. William Maynard
Company grade officer: 1st Lt. James Kenisky
Civilian: Susan Stifle

The following 56th Logistics Support Squadron people are the quarterly award winners:
Airman: Senior Airman Andrew Downey
NCO: Staff Sgt. Eric Waaler
Senior NCO: Master Sgt. Tyrone Austin
Civilian: Oscar Mabry

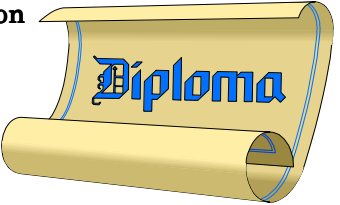
Outstanding performers

The following Luke people are outstanding performers in the AETC Environmental Compliance Assessment Management Program: Capt. Dan Golen, 56th Aerospace Medicine Squadron; Tech. Sgt. Charles Tehan, 944th Logistics Group; Staff Sgt. John Tinker, 21st Fighter Squadron; Gary Ewing, 56th Civil Engineer Squadron; and Oscar Mabry, 56th Logistics Support Squadron

NCO academy graduates

Tech. Sgt. Rosalyn Hawkins, 56th Fighter Wing, was recently named a distinguished graduate from the NCO academy at Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M.

The following Luke Tech. Sgts. also graduated from the NCO academy at Kirtland:
21st Fighter Squadron
Gary Wakefield
56th Communications Squadron
Guy Wells
56th Civil Engineer Squadron
Christopher Horsman
56th Component Repair Squadron
Staff Sgt. Leonard Christian
Richard Jones
56th Equipment Maintenance Squadron
Patrick Garity
Timothy Moore
56th Medical Operations Squadron
Stephen Hudak
Joseph Noone
56th Medical Support Squadron
Staff Sgt. Lorna McCullom
56th Operations Group
Thomas Rivard
56th Operations Support Squadron
Tammie Collins
56th Security Forces Squadron
Randy Felciano
56th Supply Squadron
Bernadette Turner
63rd Fighter Squadron
Chad Ward
309th Fighter Squadron
Anthony Clay
342nd Training Squadron
Paul Ford
372nd Training Squadron, Detachment 12
Jennings Paramore
Billy Roundtree
607th Air Control Squadron
Kenneth Collier



56th MDG stresses cancer prevention, early detection

Photo and story by
2nd Lt. Deborah Robinson
56th Medical Group

Cancer is a topic most people don't care to discuss because many think it is an automatic death sentence. However, many cancers can be cured and many others can even be prevented.

One of the best ways to improve the chances of beating cancer is to catch it in its early stages of development through regular screening tests and listening to the body's warning signals.

As cancer progresses, it may give some warning signals and symptoms should never be ignored.

Symptoms can include:

- Change in bowel or bladder habits
- A sore that does not heal
- Unusual bleeding or discharge
- Thickening of, or lump in breast
- Indigestion or problems with swallowing
- Obvious change in wart or mole
- Nagging cough or hoarseness

Pain is rarely an early sign of cancer. Paying attention to the warning signals and getting prompt medical attention saves lives.

Many types of cancer can be detected in their

early stages before symptoms appear. Health care providers can recommend appropriate tests each person should have including those for colon, rectum, mouth and skin cancer as well as breast, uterus and cervical cancer for women and prostate and testicular cancer for men.

Studies have found fruits, vegetables and grains can protect from and may even decrease risk of a number of cancers while fat and alcohol appear to increase cancer risk.

The National Cancer Institute has published dietary guidelines for cancer prevention. The guidelines are consistent with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Department of Health and Human Services Dietary Guidelines. The dietary guidelines include:

- ♦ Reduce fat to 30 percent of calories or less.
- ♦ Increase fiber to between 20 and 30 grams per day with a limit of 35 grams.
- ♦ Include a variety of fruits and vegetables in the daily diet.
- ♦ Avoid obesity.
- ♦ Consume alcoholic beverages in moderation or not at all.
- ♦ Minimize consumption of salt-cured, salt-pickled and smoked foods.

For more information on dietary guidelines for helping to prevent cancer, call 856-3778.



Master Sgt. Jose Buendia, 56th Medical Group Nutritional Medicine Flight NCO in charge, passes out healthy eating information and talks with commissary patrons.

Civilian’s open enrollment for insurance takes effect

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPC) - Federal employees who made a transaction during the Federal Employees Group Life Insurance 1999 open enrollment will have their transactions take effect on the first pay period on or after April 23.

The actual date the transaction takes effect depends on the employee’s pay and duty status the previous pay period, April 9 through 22.

Employees who were in a pay-and-duty status for at least 32 hours will have their transactions take effect on April 23.

Part-time or intermittent-schedule employees must complete at least one-half of the hours of their regularly scheduled tour of duty or customary hours worked before the transaction takes effect.

Employees not meeting the required pay and duty status won’t have their transactions take effect until they return to work or fulfill the required work hours.

“Employees meeting the above requirements should see the payroll deduction on their May 12 leave and earning statement,” said Christine Watkins, Benefits and Entitlements Service Team employee relations specialist. “We encourage everyone to review their LES to ensure the deduction is correct. If there are any problems, they can contact a benefits counselor for assistance.”

Benefits counselors are available for

assistance Monday through Friday, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. CST.

Counselors can be reached by calling the automated system at 1(800)997-2378 and in San Antonio, 1(800) 527-2378 and pressing “4” for federal employees group life insurance, followed by “0” to be transferred to a benefits counselor.

Hearing-impaired employees may reach a counselor by dialing 1(800)382-0893 or 565-2276. The best times to reach a counselor are from 8 to 11 a.m. and 1:30 to 4 p.m. CST.

The Air Force Personnel Center Civilian Personnel Operations services all continental U.S. Air Force bases except Lackland Air Force Base, Texas; Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.; Kelly Air Force Base, Texas; Pentagon, Washington D.C.; Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio; Hill Air Force Base, Utah; Tinker Air Force Base, Okla.; McClellan Air Force Base, Calif.; and Robins Air Force Base, Ga.

Limited benefits and entitlements services are provided to U.S. Air Forces in Europe bases, Lajes Field, Azores; and Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii.

Employees located at bases not serviced by the benefits and entitlements service team with questions regarding their FEGLI 1999 open enrollment may contact their servicing civilian personnel flight, at 856-7747.

Luke Youth Center, Boys & Girls Clubs host alumni reunion

By Senior Airman J. Propst

56th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The Luke Youth Center, as part of the Boys and Girls Clubs of America , sponsors Alumni Week Sunday through April 15.

The campaign is summed up with the slogan “You needed us then. We need you now.”

“We want people to see the changes the Boys and Girls Clubs have undergone,” said Brenda Holmes, preteen coordinator. “And how important it is for kids to have a place to go.”

The youth wouldn’t have a place to hang out if it weren’t for volunteers, Holmes said. By inviting alumni back, the youth center hopes to encourage some of them to spend future time volunteering at the center, she said.

“We always need volunteers,” said Pat Sweeny, youth center director. “Volunteers help us to reduce the costs of our program and allow more children to participate.”

Sweeny also mentioned it is more than just participating that is important to the children.

“It’s important to be part of their lives,” she said. “They need good role models.”

“It’s a chance for alumni to give back to their community and to give to programs that helped mold them into adults,” Sweeny said.

For more information on Alumni Week activities or volunteering at the youth center, call 856-7471.

Commander’s
Access Channel

Air Force Television News, March 20 edition

♦ Air Force housing issues

♦ Philippines volcano relief

♦ Aid to Mozambique

Monday — 11:30 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Wednesday — 11:30 a.m.

Thursday — 2 p.m.

Luke Movies

Movies begin at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted.
Children 12 and under pay \$1; adults \$1.50.

Today and Saturday “Scream 3” (R)



Stars David Arquette and Courteney Cox. In the third and final episode of the Scream trilogy, Sidney realizes that she can no longer escape her past. Inspired by horror movies, the killer returns, but this time all trilogy rules are broken. (116 minutes)

Sunday “Boiler Room” (R)



Stars Giovanni Ribisi and Nia Long. Welcome to the infamous “boiler room” where young millionaires are made overnight. In the fly-by-night brokerage firm, aggressive stockjocks peddle to unsuspecting buyers and are rewarded with more luxury toys than they know what to do with. They chase the green at breakneck speeds, just one step ahead of the law. (119 minutes)

April 14 “Whole 9 Yards” (R)



Stars Bruce Willis and Matthew Perry. Nicholas Oseransky is a nice dentist living in suburban Montreal. His new next door neighbor, Jimmy “The Tulip” Tudeski is a hit man hiding out from a dangerous Chicago crime family. Despite their differences, Oz and Jimmy have one thing in common: someone’s trying to kill them both. (99 minutes)



COMM tops MSS

56th CS survives late run, holds on to 2-point victory

By Senior Airman Jeremy Clayton Tredway
56th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The 56th Communications Squadron survived a late 56th Mission Support Squadron 16-6 run and held on to win 49-47 Monday, despite making only seven of 15 foul shots in the closing minutes of intramural basketball action at the base fitness center.

After being blown out in their last game, COMM came out firing and put 12 points on the board before MSS made their first basket.

COMM continued to dominate the game with strong shooting and inside play from James Hart and Brandt Smith, who nearly outscored MSS in the first half.

Casey Fielder and Djorde Grkovic combined for all but four of the mission support squadron's 16 points to carry the team into halftime trailing by nine.

The slumbering MSS offense woke up in the second half, nearly doubling their first-half effort and outscoring COMM 31-24.

The MSS defense also stepped up to keep the COMM team at bay.

"We decided to play man-to-man defense despite COMM's overwhelming size advantage (6-foot-8-inch and 6-foot-11-inch big men vs. 6-foot-2-inch and 6-foot-3-inch tall guys)," said MSS coach and player Leon Jackson. "Comm didn't handle it well."

A Fielder jump shot tied the score at 46 with less than 30 seconds left. COMM only scored three more points on 50-percent free throw shooting, but MSS couldn't get anything to fall and COMM held on for the win.

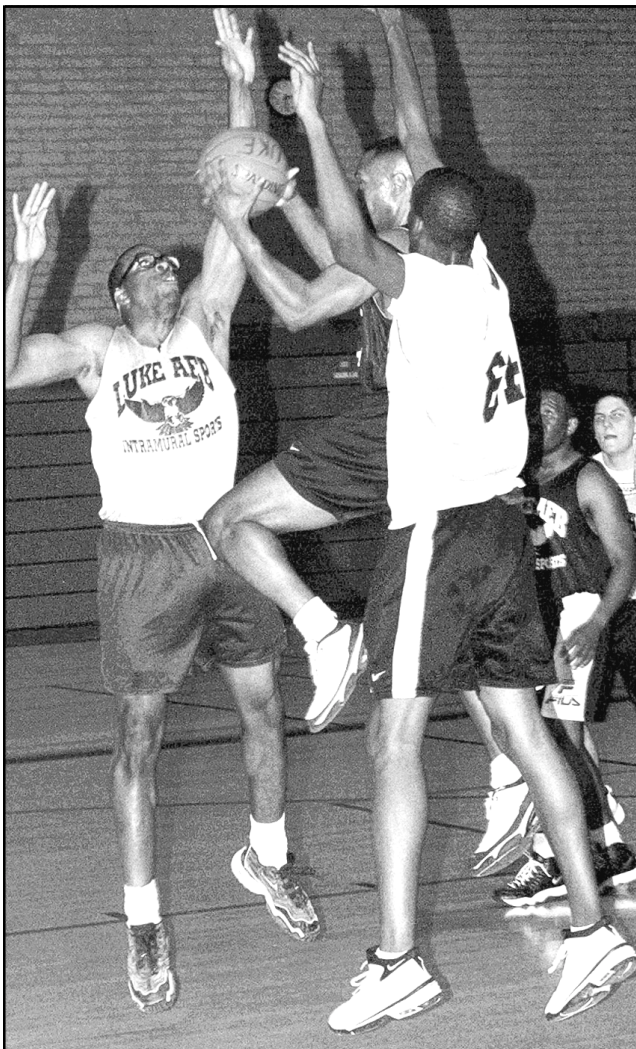
Smith attributes the win to getting MSS in foul trouble at the end of the game.

"It wasn't pretty, but we got enough points for the win," he said

Smith said the team nearly lost the game because of poor rotation.

"We had a good start, but we let them come back," said Smith. "Substitutions killed us. We didn't have a true point guard playing half the game."

The team played with a lot of heart and determination despite COMM's overwhelming size advantage and their lack of a consistent three-



Staff Sgt. Aaron Marcus

A 56th Mission Support Squadron player runs into the 56th Communications Squadron "twin towers" 6-foot-8-inch James Hart (left) and 6-foot-11-inch Darryl Isaac (right) on the way to the basket Monday during intramural basketball action at the base fitness center.

point shooter to balance the offense, said Jackson.

Jackson said the team needs to recruit a three-point shooter and learn to play zone defense properly to be competitive when the playoffs roll around.

Hart and Smith led COMM with 11 points respectively and Dawan Abdus-Salaam added 10 for the win. The win gives COMM a 4-2 overall record.

Fielder led MSS and all scorers with 17 points in the loss. Grkovic and Clifford Roberts each scored nine. The loss leaves MSS with a 3-2 overall record.

Sports Shorts

Bowl-a-thon

The chiefs group sponsors an "extreme" bowl-a-thon April 14 at 1 p.m. at the Luke bowling center to raise money for the enlisted widows home. The price of \$5 includes shoes and three games. People can contact any chief for a pledge sheet.

AFA golf tournament

A "Let's get acquainted with Luke personnel" golf tournament sponsored by the Air Force Association is April 16 at 1 p.m. at the Falcon Dunes Golf Course. The tournament, which is a four-person scramble made up of two military and two civilian members, helps the Boys and Girls Clubs of Glendale and Luke. Cost is \$38 per person for military members and \$50 per person for others. For more information, call John Dearness at 975-9877.

Mini-triathlon

The fitness center and outdoor recreation sponsor a mini-triathlon April 22 at 7 a.m. at the Silver Wings Pool. The triathlon consists of a 500-meter swim, 10-mile bicycle ride and a 5K run, in that order. Individuals or three-person teams may compete. To register, call 856-6267.

3-on-3 tournament

The fitness center sponsors a three-on-three "hoop it up" basketball tournament Saturday at 9 a.m. at the base fitness center. To register, call 856-4511 or 856-6241.

Varsity volleyball

The Luke varsity volleyball team invites people interested in playing volleyball to the scheduled practices. For more information, call Armando Robles at 856-6427.

Varsity soccer

Anyone interested in playing varsity soccer can call Adam Cyr at 856-7038.

Baseball skills

The youth center sponsors a Major League Diamond Skills programs for children 7 to 14, April 15 from 9 to 11 a.m. at the youth center ball field. Participants compete in three aspects of baseball: batting, throwing and base running. Register at the youth center by April 13. A birth certificate is needed at the time of registration. For more information, call the youth center at 856-7471.

Operation Night Hoops

The teen center sponsors Operation Night Hoops, a free program for teens beginning June 3. Basketball games are played Saturday evenings. The youth center also seeks for adult volunteer coaches and assistant coaches.

Loop de Luke

As part of Arizona Bike Week, Luke sponsors Loop de Luke, an 8-mile fun ride April 27, at 11:30 a.m. at the base fitness center. Information on bicycling, maps and prizes are available. For more information on the Loop de Luke or other bike week activities, call Ed Gruerrero at 856-6044, Chris Glasheen at 856-7557 or Gary Ewing at 856-3815 Ext. 234.

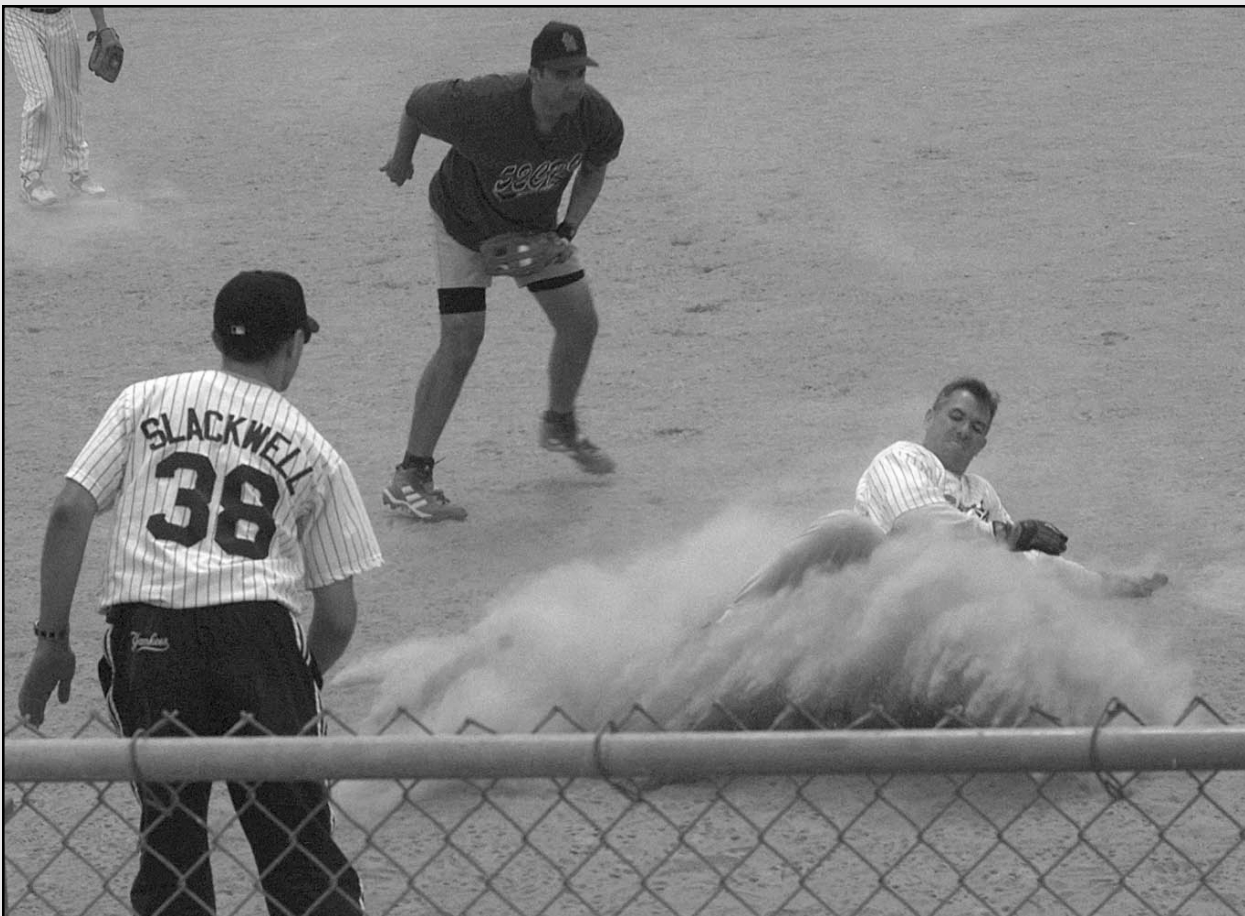
Family bicycle ride

Glendale sponsors the Go Glendale Family Bicycle Ride April 16 at 7 a.m. at Sahuaro Ranch Park at 59th Avenue and Mountain View Road. Participants bike a 7-or-15 mile ride. Complimentary refreshments are available along the route. Pre-registration is recommended. To register, call 930-2940 or visit www.ci.glendale.az.us/transportation/bicycle.

Pistol competition

The 355th Security Force Squadron, Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, sponsors an elementary-level U.S. Air Force Excellence-in-Competition Pistol Match April 27. The event is open to active-duty members in uniform. To register, e-mail merle.hudson@dm.af.mil, chris.tschirhart@dm.af.mil Monday through Friday. In the e-mail include rank, full name, social security number, organization, office symbol, local address and phone number. Participants are entered on a first-come, first-served basis.

Saaaafe ...



Tech. Sgt. Micheal Burns

Frank Golden of the 62nd Fighter Squadron Spikes slides safely into third base Saturday during a softball tournament at the base fitness center. The Spikes crushed the 56th Component Repair Squadron 17-3. The 310th Fighter Squadron Tophats won the tournament.

Sports commentary

Air Force urges fitness

By Senior Master Sgt. Carl Colbert
Davis Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz.

DAVIS-MONTHAN AIR FORCE BASE, Ariz. (ACCNS) — There are many of us old timers who remember the days of the 1.5-mile or 3-mile ‘brisk’ walk as the annual fitness test. Well let’s face it, it was not really a test of our physical fitness.

In just 10 to 45 minutes, most proved they could run or walk around the track, go red-faced and wheezing back to work, and top off the day with a few brewskies with the gang as they boasted their yearly athletic accomplishment.

Our annual fitness test will change again in the near future, and yes, folks are concerned about our fitness. But it’s not just about the test or the concerned folks out there. It’s about you.

First, let me say that I am by no means a fitness guru or a health professional. I am just another concerned senior NCO who has talked to fitness gurus and health professionals about what it takes to live a long, healthy life. You know the answer — stay fit and eat right. How do you accomplish this goal?

When I spoke with a certified personal trainer and a certified lifestyle and weight management consultant, they talked about “fitness grazing” as an easy way to get the exercise you need. No, that does not mean running through the pasture chasing cows.

Fitness grazing simply means doing some sort of fitness activity for five to 10 minutes four to five times a day. A few sit-ups or push-ups in your office, or a walk across the base to visit a co-worker are a few simple examples. Get away from your desk.

There are some serious health risks you should be aware of if you decide not to participate in a fitness program. Let’s start with coronary artery

disease. In recent years, the Center for Disease Control reported an increase in the number of incidents of coronary artery disease in teenagers and young adults, which can be attributed to lack of exercise. Chalk one up for the high-tech video games or the gazillion cable and satellite television channels that keep us glued to the screen.

The result is we fail to exercise the most important muscle in the human body — the heart. In fact, of all illnesses, cardiovascular disease is the No. 1 killer in our society.

But that’s only the beginning. Lack of exercise coupled with our fast food diet often leads to Risk type II diabetes. Tack on arthritis, osteoporosis, stroke, hypertension, decreased mobility and balance, high blood pressure, obesity and the list goes on.

You know the old story, one thing leads to another and then...Bam ... it’s too late.

Who cares if you stay in shape or not? How about your family, your friends, your co-workers?

Nobody can make you get into shape. Yes, while you are in the military there are weight standards and fitness test, but what happens when that’s all behind you? With the new Air Force fitness program on the horizon, maybe it’s time we all take a step back and examine our individual fitness programs.

Ask yourself a few questions. Will I continue to be active when I leave the military when no one is looking over my shoulder? How long do I want to live? How important are my family and friends?

I don’t know about you but, I am compelled to stay in reasonably good shape to live a long, healthy life. That’s a few more anniversaries, a few more birthdays, a college graduation or two and perhaps a wedding for daddy’s little girl — that I can’t afford. Do you really want to miss all of that?

Going for green ...



Staff Sgt. Christopher Matthews
Bob Maatta puts the ball on the green Monday during an ROTC golf tournament at Falcon Dunes Golf Course. Local golfers Dave Reinert, James Arnold, Jeff Fite and Buckley Rourk won the four-person scramble with a net team score of 54.

